(b) The requirement for Urea and D.A.P. in Uttar Pradesh during Kharif 2000 season has been assessed at 24.10 and 4.50 lakh metric tonnes, respectively. 24.89 lakh metric tonnes of Urea has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh to meet the Kharif season demand. D.A.P. is a decontrolled fertilizer for which no State-wise allocations are made by the Government. Its availability depends on the market forces of demand and supply.

Loan released by National Horticulture Board

†1272. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Horticulture Board has released loan and financial assistance to a private limited company during the last few years, without obtaining bank guarantee, inconnivance with the officers of the Board causing a loss of Rs. 90.60 lakh;

(b) if so, whether Government are taking or considering to take any actior against them; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO). (a) to (c) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) set up for promoting integrated development of horticulture in the country has been taking up programmes on various aspects from production to post harvest management of horticulture produce. The Board has taken up various schemes during the 8th Plan for overall development of horticulture by providing loan/soft loan/subsidy to co-operative societies/farmers associations/NGOs/corporate and private sector/ State Agro industry Corporations etc. For seeking loan/soft loan, one mode of security is bank guarantee besides other modes of security. Two cases of fake/misplaced bank guarantee have come to the notice. In one case, the Board has provided loan of Rs. 9,37,500/- and subsidy of Rs. 3,12,500/- for procurement and installation of 50 juice vending machines under its Scheme, namely, 'Alternate Structure for Marketing of Fruit Juice/Fruit based Beverages Scheme'. In the other cases, the Board had provided soft loan of Rs. 49.68 lakh for setting up post harvest infrastructure facilities like cold storage, pre-cooling unit, refrigerated van and retail outlets with subsidy of Rs. 5.00 lakh for the procurement of plastic crates under the Scheme, namely, 'Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticulture Crops'.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Board has lodged First Information Report (FIR) under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code with the Police Authorities for investigation in the above cases. After the Police investigation, criminal cases have been filed in the respective courts in both the cases. The Board has also filed civil suits in both the cases for recovery of the NHB's funds alongwith interest. The matter is being pursued by the Board in the respective courts and the same is *sub-judice.*

Rice production per acre

1273. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a failure to meet the target of foodgrain production of 210 million tonnes in 1999-2000;

(b) if so, which cereals have not been able to meet the target;

(c) whether it is a fact that rice production per acre is gradually going down;

(d) to what causes does the ICAR attributes this decline in rice production and productivity;

(e) whether any step will be taken to enhance the foodgrain productions in the forthcoming year; and

(f) the details thereof in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The crop-wise targets *vis-a-vis* likely production of foodgrains during 1999-2000 are given as under:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	Target	Advance estimates (as on 29.06.2000)
Rice	86.00	88.25
Wheat	74.00	74.25
Jowar	10.83	8.65
Bajra	8.09	5.74
Maize	10.81	11.47
Ragi	2.45	2.43
Small Millets	0.66	0.64
Barley	1.66	1.42
Pulses	15.50	13.06
Total foodgrains	210.00	205.91